

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Original) A tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array, comprising:
a fiber array connected to an optical waveguide; and
a tape fiber comprising a tape core section produced by aligning, in a plurality of stages, a plurality of optical fibers to be fixed to the fiber array and forming the whole of the aligned optical fibers into a tape, said tape core section being disposed on the fixation side of the fiber array, said tape fiber in its predetermined position, remote from the tape core section, having been fixed, said plurality of optical fibers having been separated, at a part or the whole of the position intermediate between the two fixed portions, into a predetermined number of optical fiber units which is smaller in number than said plurality of optical fibers.
3. (Original) A tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array, comprising:
a fiber array connected to an optical waveguide; and
a tape fiber comprising a tape core section produced by aligning, in a plurality of stages, a plurality of optical fibers to be fixed to the fiber array and forming the whole of the aligned optical fibers into a tape, said tape core section being disposed on the fixation side of the fiber array, said tape fiber in its predetermined position, remote from the tape core section, having been fixed, said plurality of optical fibers having been arranged, at the position intermediate between the two fixed portions, in one stage, one by one parallel to one another and having been formed into a tape.
4. (Currently Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein, in the tape fiber, the region in which said plurality of optical fibers have been separated into a predetermined number of optical fiber units which is smaller in number than said plurality of optical fibers, has been covered with a protective tube.

5. (Original) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 3, wherein the portion, in which said plurality of optical fibers have been arranged in one stage one by one parallel to one another and have been formed into a tape, has been covered with a protective tube.
6. (Previously Presented) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4, wherein the protective tube has been fixed to the predetermined position or a position near the predetermined position.
7. (Currently Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein a rearrangement section for rearranging the optical fibers is provided at the predetermined position or a position near the predetermined position.
8. (Previously Presented) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4, wherein a rearrangement section for rearranging the optical fibers is provided at the predetermined position or a position near the predetermined position, and one end of the protective tube has been fixed to one end of a case containing the rearrangement section.
9. (Previously Presented) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4, wherein a rearrangement section for rearranging the optical fibers is provided at the predetermined position or a position near the predetermined position, and one end of the protective tube has been fixed within a case containing the rearrangement section.
10. (Original) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 3, wherein said plurality of optical fibers fixed to the fiber array are arranged in a plurality of columns of a plurality of stages, and the whole of the optical fibers has been formed into a tape.
11. (Original) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 10, wherein the number of columns is 2 and the number of stages is 2.

12. (Previously Presented) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4, wherein only one end of the protective tube has been fixed.
13. (Original) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4, wherein the protective tube has been fixed to optical fibers in a part of the region where the said plurality of optical fibers have been separated one by one.
14. (Original) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 5, wherein, in a part of the region in which said plurality of optical fibers have been arranged in one stage one by one parallel to one another and have been formed into a tape, the protective tube has been fixed by the optical fiber tape.
15. (Original) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 7, wherein the order of arrangement of the optical fibers delivered from the rearrangement section in its side remote from the fiber array is identical to the order of arrangement of the optical fibers in the fiber array on the optical waveguide side.
16. (Previously Presented) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4, wherein the protective tube is formed of a flame-retardant material.
17. (Previously Presented) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 4, wherein the protective tube has been fixed to the fiber array on its fixation side.
18. (Currently Amended) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein the pitch of the optical fibers in the fiber array comprises the half of the pitch (half pitch) of the optical fibers in the tape fiber.
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 3, wherein a rearrangement section for rearranging the optical fibers is provided at the predetermined position or a position near the predetermined position.
22. (Canceled)
23. (Currently Amended) ~~18.~~ The tape optical fiber cord with an optical fiber array according to claim 3, wherein the pitch of the optical fibers in the fiber array comprises the half of the pitch (half pitch) of the optical fibers in the tape fiber.